

REMARKS

The patent application was filed with eleven claims. Claims 1 through 11 remain in the patent application. Claim 1 is in independent form.

Claim 1 stands rejected as being unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over United States Patent 5,170,435 (the '435 reference) in view of German publication having publication number DE 31 40 321 A1 (the '321 reference). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. The '435 reference discloses a wave guide system for use with a loudspeaker in a motor vehicle. The reference defines a speaker chamber 12 with a loudspeaker driver 36 disposed therein. An acoustic baffle 32 acoustically isolates the pressure waves generated by forward and reverse deflections of the loudspeaker driver cone 37. Waves are then directed through wave guides 14, 16 and emitted out into the passenger compartment through output ports 50, 60.

The '321 reference discloses an emergency triangle that is molded into a cover 4 for a spare tire 1. The emergency triangle is used to warn oncoming vehicles that an object, namely the stalled vehicle, is nearby and should be avoided. Within the triangle is a set of depressions allowing tools to be inserted therein. The tools are stored in this section and can be used in the case of an emergency in which repairs need to be done to the motor vehicle.

Claim 1, as amended to clarify the invention, claims a system for reproducing sound in a motor vehicle having an interior and a side compartment arranged therein. This system includes a sound reproduction system having at least one base reflection box equipped with a base reflection pipe and/or a base reflection opening. A built-in speaker is housed within the sound reproduction system. The base reflection box is arranged in the side compartment of the interior of the motor vehicle and includes a lid oriented toward the interior of the motor vehicle. The lid of the base reflection box is oriented toward the interior of the motor vehicle and includes a

sound-transmissive portion and a rigid receptacle receiving portion. A receptacle wall has depressions therein located behind the lid and is adapted to receive at least one tool between the base reflection box and the rigid receptacle receiving portion of the lid. The lid orients the sound-transmissive portion adjacent the base reflection box and positions the rigid receptacle receiving portion away from the base reflection box when the lid is in a closed position to secure the tools therebehind while allowing sound to pass therethrough unobstructed.

While the '435 reference discloses a box that surrounds a loudspeaker, and the '321 reference discloses tools secured to a flat structure having receptacles molded therein, the combination of these two references would not result in the teaching of the invention of claim 1 as amended, for the above-captioned patent application. The '435 reference discloses a loudspeaker that is surrounded by a box that does not transmit sound to the interior of the motor vehicle. The output ports 50, 60 of the loudspeaker are disposed remotely from the loudspeaker. In addition, the '321 reference discloses a lid that is disposed directly over the compartment in which it is covering. Namely, the warning triangle that has the molded receptacles for receiving the tools therein is molded and secured directly over the thing it is covering, namely the spare tire 1. Therefore, a combination of these two references would disclose a box surrounding a loudspeaker that is completely rigid and the tools would be disposed directly in front of the loudspeaker.

In contradistinction, claim 1 as amended to clarify the invention, claims a box that has a loudspeaker therein with a lid that includes two portions. The first portion is a sound-transmissive portion and is located directly in front of the loudspeaker allowing the loudspeaker to broadcast sound into the interior of the motor vehicle. The rigid receptacle receiving portion that holds at least one tool is disposed adjacent the sound-transmissive portion allowing the lid to retain the tools but not interfere with the production of sound or the transmission of sound to the interior of the motor vehicle. Therefore, claim 1, and all claims depending therefrom, overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Amendment

Application Filed: April 9, 2004

Serial No: 10/821,743

It is respectfully submitted that this patent application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions regarding this amendment or patent application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fee associated with this Communication to Deposit Account No. 50-0852.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: November 10, 2008

Attorney Docket No: 7967.3003.001